

Posted by u/Speedhump23 4 hours ago

Toothbrushes! Really??

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Start of deposition by Dean of Federation University Fet-pol, western arm zone.

As we all now know, the planet "Earth" was contacted by representatives of the Galactic Federation about 15 standard years ago.

After the normal shock and awe, relations are formalised. The Federation pointed out that Earth will not be allowed to artificially progress faster than their own calculated progress potential currently allows. Some areas such as sanitation, environmental studies, food production etc. are an exception, as these advancements allow the planet to reach their potential much faster. The humans were slightly pissed at this, but when told the options are to accept it, or the federation will be back in 100 years to try again, acceptance was quick.

After a thorough vetting process, a selected group of students from across the planet are invited to attend the local galactic university. These students are given limited upgrades to their personal equipment, to make university life easier, such as better shoes, teeth cleaners, personal tablet AIs etc.. They then got transported to university and assigned classes related to the approved progress areas, and dorms.

According to the toothbrush's instructions, the idea is you aim them at your teeth, select what needs to be removed (plaque) and then they clean your teeth for you. The comments from students say it is the best clean, better than a dentist visit, without the power drill feelings. Other upgrades, while mundane, were also welcome, such as the shoes. They are the most supportive and comfortable shoes the students have ever had. The Tablet AIs were also very useful, with universal translators, VR maps of the campus, and even easy to understand lesion plans. Sadly the AI in the tablets would not divulge any tech "beyond their level", no matter how much the humans asked.

After a drinking party to welcome the students, one of them was back in his dorm, when he discovered that with a bit of fiddling the toothbrushes can also be used to target other materials. The inbuilt safety settings stops living life forms in the galactic register being affected, as well as stopping important parts of your mouth being removed. Unfortunately, no one thought to include material, such as human female's bra clasps, the "e-paper" in text books, or the pants harness of the visiting vice chancellor, in the list.

As a result, all the humans had to hand back their teeth cleaners, but it was too late, now the other race's students had got the idea and various inappropriate wardrobe malfunctions were occurring daily. And on a personal note, do you have any idea how much it is going to cost to replace the doors of my vintage ground transport? Due to losing their teeth cleaners, several of the humans students asked the university's industrial design team, to fabricate old fashioned tooth "brushes" for them and then later

on, for the Federation students, so they could keep their dental hygiene going until the galactic tooth cleaner database was updated.

It was soon noted that the extra time taken by the humans cleaning their teeth was astounding. It seems that the students were claiming that their old manual brushes can take 30 min to do a proper job. In an understandable error, a design teacher who had talked to one of the human students about it, suggested building "Electric toothbrushes" to replace the manual brushes. The resulting hand held electric toothbrush was very good, with the student asking to send a few home to his poor dentally challenged family.

And that, your honour, is how the embargo on Fusion 4 technology was mistakenly broken with the humans. They only took 2 months to disassemble the power supply of the brush, reverse engineer it, improve, enlarge and start mass production of fusion 4 power generators. The ones they are now using to power their space ships are half the size and three times the efficiency of our current range.

We have two options, stop all access to the university by humans to try to limit the damage, as it has been shown that our technology embargoes do not work. Or we give up and employ them to help us improve our current technology.